

# Arts Council of York County

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Larry Wilson.

On view in the Perimeter Gallery, through Aug. 26, will be the exhibit, *MUGSHOT*. A reception will be held on Aug. 3, beginning at 5:30pm.

So good they must be illegal! Ten regional ceramic artists have joined the lineup, and are ready for you to choose their mug - literally. See a mug on the wall that you love? Bail it out and take it home!

*MUGSHOT* features the works of Angela Ashe, Pam Bailey, Kristi Bush, Lisa Chandler, Nancy Cosentini, Justin Hues-

tis, Kanako Kumanaru, Bex Lugthart, Kim McQueen, and Jonathan Williams. As the mugs are purchased, a new mug by that artist will replace the previous one, creating an exhibit that evolves over time.

The Center for the Arts is located on East Main Street, a state-recognized cultural district of Downtown Rock Hill.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 803/328-2787, e-mail to (arts@yorkcountyarts.org), or visit (<http://www.yorkcountyarts.org>).

## McColl Center for Art + Innovation in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Nill and A Group Exhibition

The McColl Center for Art + Innovation in Charlotte, NC, is presenting two exhibits including: *Diaspora Disassociation: A Solo Exhibition by Artist Nill*, on view through Aug. 13, 2023, and *BODY/POLITICS* the 2023 Parent and Educator Artists-in-Residence, featuring works by Olaniyi Akindiya "AKIRASH", Pablo Garcia-Lopez, Nicole Havekost, and Mary Valverde, on view through Aug. 13, 2023.

Google says that Dissociation means, "The lack of continuity between thoughts, memories, surroundings, actions, and identity". Nill's work engages with the relationship between Europe and Africa and their shared histories. Exploring narratives and histories not commonly shared within the American educational school system, and what Africa has brought to Europe as well as what Europe has brought to Africa.

The work included in this exhibition is part of a series framed within a Classical European context; giving grounding to work familiar to most Western audiences, and then engaging in questions of history, both old and contemporary, in a surreal and almost dreamlike setting, that suggests something is askew. Within this context she keeps women at the forefront, engaging in their strength, perseverance, wisdom, and guidance. Nill seeks to challenge, teach, and explore what it means to be a docent of your own history while canonizing these figures in a new light.

Nill is a multi-disciplinary artist currently working out of North Carolina. Her principal practice revolves around painting, sculpted by history surrounding the African Diaspora. She also engages in conceptual work and printmaking intertwining ideas of emotions, freedom, and the human experience.

Many believe that the human body is the ultimate record keeper. Muscles grow



Work by Pablo Garcia-Lopez

questions about culture and the impact societies have on the way we exist in the world. Working collaboratively with members of the community, the physical act of working together or happening on a work in public spaces changes the way we see ourselves as it relates to perceptions of art and our physical space.

Multimedia artist and neuroscientist (PhD) Pablo Garcia-Lopez combines science with experimental videos and sculptures. Symbol, light and form are combined to create high-relief sculptures made of natural silk that are baroque in appearance, and explore neuroscience, religion, mental health, culture, and ideas of Nature vs. Nurture, and science fiction. His use of silk relates to the complexity and plasticity of neural networks. His complex figures contain representations of neuronal elements including the brain, spinal cord, thalamus, and hippocampus.

Sculptor Nicole Havekost's approach to the body, and in her case the female body, is personal. Her large-scale felt sculptures illustrate the reality that bodies are magical and glorious and gross and bewildering. Coarse hair grows in places that were once smooth. Lungs take in air, bones degrade. Havekost explores the tough space we all must navigate; recognizing that to be human fundamentally means we can only influence, not fully control our bodies.

Mary Valverde centers her mixed-media work and research as a visual artist on the historical and present-day connection between Indigenous and African communities in the Americas. Her work uses geometry, patterning, and abstraction that all function as codes to comment on the effects of forced migration, exploitation, genocide, slavery, inventions, and culture shifts on bodies of black and brown people as well as on language and visual art.

*BODY/POLITICS* is generously supported by Bank of America. Pablo Garcia-Lopez's residency is generously supported by Windgate Foundation.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 704/332-5535 or visit ([www.mccollcenter.org](http://www.mccollcenter.org)).



Work by Mary Valverde

as we exercise, lines appear as we age, and scars remember traumas that have affected our physical forms. For some, the body is a vehicle for the mind. The power of thought on healing and mood is evidence of the mind body connection. Finally, some see the body as a definer of who we are and how we socially and culturally experience the world. The exhibition, *BODY/POLITICS*, features the work of 2023 Parent and Educator Artists-in-Residence Olaniyi Akindiya "AKIRASH", Pablo Garcia-Lopez, Nicole Havekost, and Mary Valverde, whose perspectives embrace and question our complicated relationship to these questions and definitions of the body.

Interdisciplinary artist AKIRASH marries his background in biochemistry with performance, installation, and video art to raise

## Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Mario Loprete

Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, will present *The Thin Red Line*, featuring works by Mario Loprete, on view in the Overcash Gallery, from Aug. 14 through Oct. 5, 2023.

Italian artist, Mario Loprete brings to us a fresh look at the archaic artistic culture of Italy with a hip hop vibe. Created during the lockdowns of 2020, Loprete the idea of street art and street performers, or lack thereof during the lockdowns, inspired him. Reversing the concept of bringing art to the streets, Loprete brings street to art.

Ancient Romans famously built and sculpted out of concrete. Using his own clothing as inspiration, Loprete created concrete sculptures formed out of shirts, hats, shoes and more. Using masks as a support medium, Loprete incorporates hip hop dance and graffiti into his exhibition, mixing both traditional and contemporary styles as his muse.

Central Piedmont Community College is highly accessible and convenient to people of all ages who seek a real-world, affordable, hands-on education that will

transform their lives and strengthen the economic, social, and cultural environment of Mecklenburg County. Central Piedmont is also a smart investment. At a fraction of the cost, students learn by doing, receiving a combination of technical and soft skills training from quality faculty who prepare them to enter the workforce and make a difference in their family, business, community, and world.

Founded in 1963, Central Piedmont Community College has eight locations throughout Mecklenburg County, offering nearly 300 degree, diploma, and certification programs; customized corporate training; market-focused continuing education; and special interest classes. For more information, visit ([cpcc.edu](http://cpcc.edu)), or connect with the college on social media at ([cpcc.edu/social](https://cpcc.edu/social)).

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery, contact Amelia Zytka by e-mail at ([amelia.zytka@cpcc.edu](mailto:amelia.zytka@cpcc.edu)). Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at Central Piedmont Arts and our blog at (<http://blogs.cpcc.edu/cpccartgalleries/>).

## Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, Features Works by Ben Venom, Phinphone Senesombath, and More

The Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, will present *Ben Venom: BANG YOUR HEAD*, on view in the Coe Gallery, from Aug. through Nov. 26, 2023. A reception will be held on Aug. 12, from 10am-4pm, and *Ping's Studio*, an in-depth look at the creative process and client relationships of local tattoo artist Phinphone Senesombath, on view at the Shuford Gallery, from Aug. 12 through Nov. 26, 2023. A reception will be held on Aug. 12, from 10am-4pm.

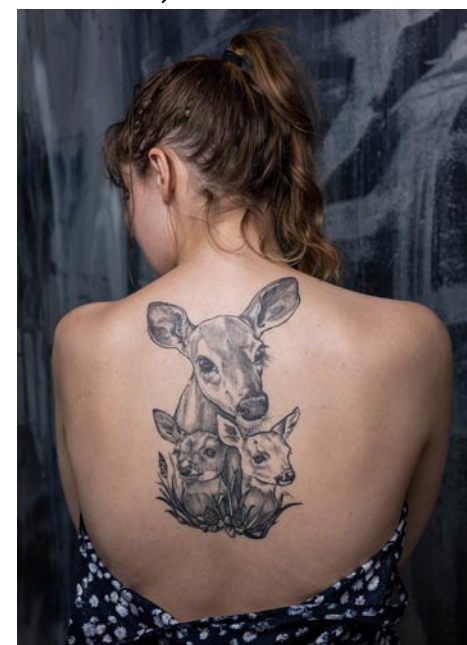
Working with repurposed materials to create textile-based works, some spanning 12 feet in length, Ben Venom contrasts the counterculture components of gangs, punk/metal music with the comforts of domesticity. This collision of traditional quilting techniques with elements tied to the fringes of society re-envisions the story of the material through a softer lens.

Venom sources his material (heavy metal band/pop culture t-shirts, bandanas, denim) from donations from friends, family and the public. The reclaimed fabrics contain a multitude of personal histories and everyone's unexplained stain, tear, or rip is included. These salvaged pieces are sewn into a larger narrative and become a part of a collective history within the work.



Work by Ben Venom

Venom graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2007 with a Master of Fine Arts degree. His work has been shown both nationally and internationally including the Levi Strauss Museum (Germany), National Folk Museum of Korea, HPGRP Gallery (Tokyo), Fort Wayne Museum, Charlotte Fogh Gallery (Denmark), Taubman Museum of Art, Gregg Museum of Art and Design, and the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles. He has been interviewed by *NPR: All Things Considered*, *Playboy*, *Juxtapoz Magazine*,



Work by Phinphone Senesombath

*Maxim*, and *CBS Sunday Morning*. Venom is currently Visiting Faculty at the San Francisco Art Institute.

*Ping's Studio* is an in-depth look at the creative process and client relationships of local tattoo artist Phinphone Senesombath. Ping is a Hmong American woman who does not conform to the traditional expectation of a tattoo artist. Ping is a fine artist, conducting a strict tattoo practice where she only tattoos her original artwork. This exhibition will include a re-creation of her studio complete with tattoo bed, inks, tools, and flash wall; original sketches; photographs of completed tattoos; and a selection of Ping's fine art. Some of Ping's clients will stand on exhibition pedestals as living statues during special events throughout the run of the exhibition. Audiences will follow the progression of a tattoo, and explore the therapeutic aspect of tattooing.

*Ping's Studio* coincides with *Ben Venom: Quilting Mayhem*; these exhibitions celebrate the museum's core value of Complete Inclusivity by highlighting the reversal of stereotypical gender roles and the artists' usage and mastery of mediums, and materials.

Ping started tattooing at 40 years-old which is uncommon. With a strong, primarily self-taught art background, she quickly became known in the community and surrounding areas as a strong custom tattoo artist specializing in fine-line, detailed work.

Also on view in the Objects Gallery, from Aug. 12 through Nov. 26, is the ex-

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